

March 5, 1984

LB 970

costs are important, and I will work with anybody on this floor to try to make sure that we have cooperation and don't have duplication and do have good programs. But killing this bill is not the way to bring that about.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, as you know, I live in outstate Nebraska and I think outstate Nebraska should be served with an MBA program but I am not supporting this bill and that is not a contradiction. Let me explain. If you support this bill, you will have the MBA program at Kearney which is relatively close to where I live, but you won't be serving a lot of other places in the state. Now I don't know if this technological revolution has come to the place where education can be served by telecommunications but I am willing to give it a trial. And if we allow this bill to go, we won't get that trial. I will be the first to agree that this combination of the University and the Kearney program has not worked well and it has been cumbersome and probably expensive. But many of you have received the proposal that the University is suggesting for a telecommunications system which would allow students to talk back to the professors and it would not just be in the locations of the state colleges, it will be in many locations around the state. On January 16, 1984, a breakthrough occurred with new technology developed by the ETV system, became operational. Vidiplex provides one-way TV and two-way voice to a distant site such as Scottsbluff. Students in Scottsbluff can see and hear the professor as he teaches a regular course in Lincoln and can ask questions of and be questioned by the professor. It is the next thing to sitting in the classroom. Then many of you got this flier that came out. And other towns that could be served are Scottsbluff, Kearney, North Platte, Grand Island, Hastings and Norfolk. They are saying that the cost is relatively small. So what I am saying and what I have said in the Education Committee is let's put them on the spot, let's give the University a chance to come through on this program, see if it will work. Let's give them a year. Let's not authorize this MBA at Kearney at this point. Let's see if a better quality MBA program can be established